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11 JOHN STOSSEL

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE DIVISION

JOHN STOSSEL, an individual,

Plaintiff,

v.

META PLATFORMS, INC., a Delaware
corporation; SCIENCE FEEDBACK, a
French non-profit organization; and
CLIMATE FEEDBACK, a French non-
profit organization,

Defendants.

Case Number: 5:21-cv-07385-VKD

**DECLARATION OF KRISTA L. BAUGHMAN
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S STATUS
REPORT RE: SERVICE**

1 I, Krista L. Baughman, declare and state as follows:

2 1. I am a partner at Dhillon Law Group Inc. and counsel for Plaintiff John Stossel
3 (“Plaintiff” or “Mr. Stossel”). I am an attorney in good standing duly admitted to practice before all
4 Courts of the State of California. I am admitted to practice law in the states of New York and
5 California, and admitted before all state, federal and appeals courts in the state of California, and the
6 United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Except as to those matters stated on
7 information and belief, I have personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein and if called as a
8 witness could and would competently testify thereto. As to those matters stated on information and
9 belief, I believe them to be true.

10 2. An online search of France’s Trade and Companies Register, Infogreffe, indicates that
11 Defendant Science Feedback is listed with Infogreffe and maintains a business address in Paris.
12 Attached as Exhibit A is a true and correct copy of the information resulting from this search,
13 performed on September 22, 2021 (the Exhibit copy includes version in both French and English). A
14 similar search on the Infogreffe database performed for Climate Feedback yielded no results.

15 3. When I performed a search on Wikipedia for “Science Feedback” in September, 2021,
16 prior to filing the Complaint, Wikipedia provided the following description: “Science Feedback is a
17 site founded in September 2018 as a French Association déclarée by Emmanuel Vincent to parent
18 several subsidiary FCWs, amongst which are Climate Feedback (CF) and Health Feedback (HF).” I
19 note that the current version of this Wikipedia page, accessed December 7, 2021, recites that the page
20 was edited on December 7, 2021 at 2:42 UTC, and now different language appears, but the page still
21 refers to Science Feedback as a parent of Climate Feedback.

22 4. Attached as Exhibit B hereto is a true and correct copy of Science Feedback’s
23 homepage, available at <https://sciencefeedback.co/>, which I accessed on December 7, 2021.

24 5. Attached as Exhibit C hereto is a true and correct copy of Climate Feedback’s
25 homepage, available at <https://climatefeedback.org>, which I accessed on December 7, 2021.
26
27
28

EXHIBIT A

Log In



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COMPANY DESCRIPTION		OFFICE DESCRIPTION	
Entry on the SIRENE listing:	09/2018	Entry on the SIRENE listing:	04/2020
SIREN identifier:	842 192 692	SIRET identifier:	842 192 692 00031
SIRET identifier of the registered office:	842 192 692 00031	Brand name:	
Legal category:	Association déclarée	Address:	21 PLACE DE LA REPUBLIQUE 75003, PARIS 3
Primary Activity Undertaken (APE):	Autres services d'information n.c.a.	Primary Activity Undertaken (APE):	Autres services d'information n.c.a.

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[SIRENE database, rights reserved](#)

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DESCRIPTION DE L'ENTREPRISE		DESCRIPTION DE L'ÉTABLISSEMENT	
Inscription au répertoire SIRENE :	09/2018	Inscription au répertoire SIRENE :	04/2020
Identifiant SIREN :	842 192 692	Identifiant SIRET :	842 192 692 00031
Identifiant SIRET du siège :	842 192 692 00031	Enseigne :	
Catégorie juridique :	Association déclarée	Adresse :	21 PLACE DE LA REPUBLIQUE 75003, PARIS 3
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EXHIBIT B



Accurate information is the foundation of a functioning democracy

WHAT WE DO

Science Feedback is a worldwide network of scientists sorting fact from fiction in science based media coverage. Our goal is to help readers know which news to trust.

Latest Claim Reviews – CLIMATE



DAILY WIRE

MISLEADING

Study Shows The Great Barrier Reef Is Growing Quickly

Ben Zeisloft, The Daily Wire
- 30 Oct 2021



facebook

INACCURATE

An electric car "costs more than seven times as much" as a gasoline powered car

Facebook users, Facebook
- 21 Oct 2021

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Latest Claim Reviews – HEALTH



GP

MISLEADING

"Omicron COVID Variant Found ONLY in Fully Vaccinated"

Bill Hennessy, Gateway Pundit
- 03 Dec 2021



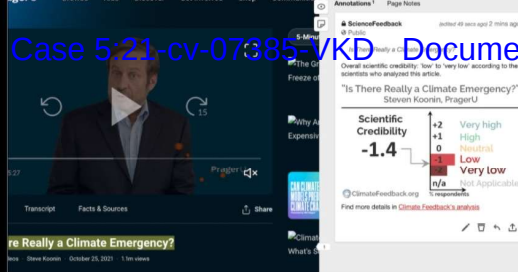
INACCURATE

"Forbes article is evidence that COVID-19 vaccines change our DNA"

Social media users, Facebook, Instagram
- 02 Dec 2021

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Latest Article Reviews – CLIMATE



PragerU



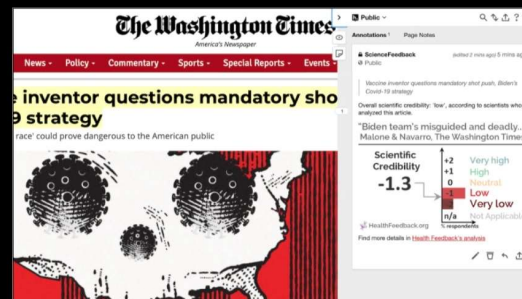
CNN

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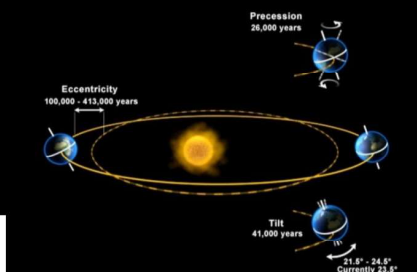
CNN



Washington Times

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Explainer: How the rise and fall of CO₂ levels influenced the ice ages

The Earth's climate has been quite stable over the past 11,000 years, playing an important role in the development of human civilisation. Prior to that, the Earth experienced an ...

- 02 Jun 2021



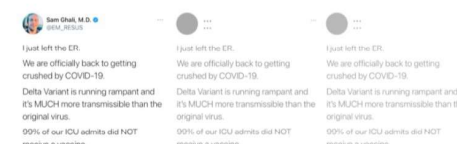
The potentials and limitations of tree plantings as a climate solution

the international conversation on tree plantings as a solution to reducing CO₂ emissions in the atmosphere and mitigating the rise in global surface temperature is mixed, with judg...

- 11 Jun 2020

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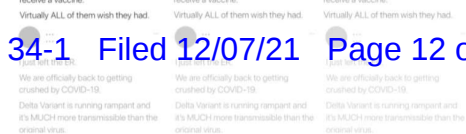




Infection-induced immunity versus vaccine-induced immunity: Weighing the benefits and risks

Introduction Multiple articles and social media posts have debated the strength of infection-induced immunity—commonly referred to as natural immunity—compared to vaccina...

- 03 Nov 2021



Statements in Project Veritas video contradict public health authorities and experts' recommendation for eligible children to be vaccinated against COVID-19

Introduction On 27 September 2021, the group Project Veritas published a video on several social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, containing claims that...

- 02 Oct 2021

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Science Feedback invited to speak at European Commission CONNECT University, Digital for our Planet

Emmanuel Vincent, PhD, Founder & Director of Science Feedback was invited to participate in the European Commission CONNECT University Summer School 2021, Digital for our Plane...

- 09 Jul 2021



Science Feedback is awarded an IFCN Development Grant to build database on sources of misinformation

Science Feedback is very pleased to be awarded a development grant from the Poynter Institute's International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN). This grant aims to further innovation ...

- 24 Aug 2020

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Climate Feedback is a worldwide network of scientists sorting fact from fiction in climate change media coverage. Our goal is to help readers know which news to trust.

Latest Claim Reviews

Coral cover in the Great Barrier Reef improved in 2021, but that doesn't mean the reef is 'growing quickly,' contrary to Daily Wire claim



DAILY WIRE

Study Shows The Great Barrier Reef Is Growing Quickly

MISLEADING

Ben Zeisloft, The Daily Wire
- 30 Oct 2021

Global warming contributes to increased heat-related mortality, contrary to Bjorn Lomborg's unsupported claims that climate change is saving hundreds of thousands of lives each year



NEW YORK POST

"Global warming saves 166,000 lives each year"; those claiming that climate change is causing heat-related deaths are wrong because they ignore that the population is growing and becoming older

UNSUPPORTED

Bjorn Lomborg, New York Post, Facebook
- 15 Sep 2021

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PragerU video on climate change repeats a range of misleading claims by Steven Koonin

PragerU

"The author of this video, Dr. Steven Koonin, says he is following the scientific reports published by the UN and US government, but by subtly changing wording and choosing not to ..

- 29 Nov 2021

Rain fell on Greenland summit for the first time on record, as accurately reported by CNN

CNN

"The article is highly factual. One issue that we have is the lack of data

CO₂ coalition sponsored article in The Washington Times presents list of false and misleading statements about the impacts of CO₂ and climate change

The Washington Times

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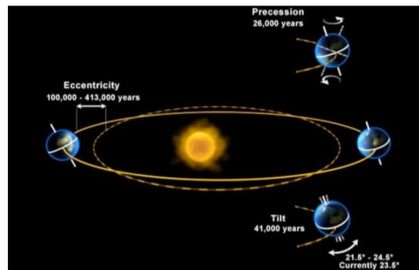


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The potentials and limitations of tree plantings as a climate solution

the international conversation on tree plantings as a solution to reducing CO₂ emissions in the atmosphere and mitigating the rise in global surface temperature is mixed, with judg...

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Perugia International Journalism Festival: media, news and the future of climate change

This panel will address these topics with experts coming from some of the leading experiences in the field that encompasses the communication of climate change for public opinion a...

- 08 May 2019



Tackling misinformation and disinformation in Science: a workshop organized by the European Science-Media Hub, Wednesday 6 February 2019

European Science-Media Hub Workshop 'Tackling misinformation and disinformation in science'

How to tackle disinformation in science? How scientists and journalists could work better together in order to prevent misinformation? The knowledge lab of the ESMH on 6th February...

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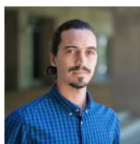


EXHIBIT D



Team members, advisors and contributors

Team



Emmanuel Vincent

Founder & Director

Emmanuel completed a PhD at the University Pierre et Marie Curie (Paris, France) and a post-doctoral fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT; Cambridge, USA), studying how the Ocean controls Hurricane intensity and how Hurricane can in turn influence the climate via their interaction with the Ocean.

He launched Science Feedback to help the scientific community play a leading role in providing the public with accurate information on scientific topics.



Iria Carballo-Carbajal

Science Editor, Health

Iria earned an undergraduate degree in biology and an MSc in secondary education from the University of Oviedo (Spain). After obtaining her PhD in Neuroscience from the University of Tuebingen (Germany), she worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the Vall d'Hebrón Research Institute (Barcelona, Spain). Her research has focused on understanding the molecular basis of Parkinson's disease to search for new treatments.



Fernanda Ferreira

Science Editor, Health

Fernanda has a PhD in Virology from Harvard University and a Masters in Science Writing from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. As a freelance science writer, her work has appeared in *MIT Technology Review*, *Science*, and other publications. She joined Health Feedback in 2021.



Sophie Fessl

Science Editor, Health

Sophie Fessl has a PhD in developmental neurobiology from King's College London and a degree in biology from the University of Oxford. After completing her PhD, she swapped her favorite animal model, the fruit fly, for pen and paper. As a freelance science journalist and writer, she covers neuroscience, oncology, biology and research news.



Nikki Forrester

Science Editor, Climate and Ecology

Nikki holds a PhD in ecology and evolutionary biology from the University of Pittsburgh where she studied plant-bacterial interactions. As a freelance science writer, she covers climate, ecology, evolution, and research news. Her work appears in *Nature*, *Science*, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, and other outlets.



Ian Le Guillou

Science Editor, Health

Ian completed a PhD in biochemistry from the University of Cambridge (U.K.) where he studied protein structures. After his PhD, he worked in communications for medical research charities to explain the latest science to the general public. As a freelance science writer, Ian now covers a range of biomedical research with work appearing in *Chemistry World*, *The Scientist*, and *Horizon* magazine.



Lambert Baraut-Guinet

Science Editor, Climate

Lambert earned Masters in Geochemistry from the *Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris* and in climate change communication from the *Université Paris Saclay*. After his PhD in isotopic geochemistry at the *Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle* where he studied mass-independent isotopic fractionation processes of ozone, he worked as a

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Rubén Portela Carballeira

Science Editor, Health

Rubén earned an MSc in environmental sciences and a PhD in ecology from the University of A Coruña (Spain). During his doctoral studies he did stays at the Beijing Forestry University (China), the Federal University of São Carlos (Brazil), and the University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro (Portugal). His research focused on invasion ecology, related to clonal plant species, and ecological modelling. He works as a freelance writer and science communicator.



Pablo Rougerie

Science Editor, Health

Pablo obtained his PhD in Immunology from the University Paris – Descartes (France). He then worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine (New York, U.S.) and at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). His research focused on different topics in cell biology, including the regulation of T lymphocyte activation, the mechanics of cell deformation, and the use of biomaterials of specific geometry to guide the growth of biological tissues.



Flora Teoh

Science Editor, Health

Flora obtained a PhD in Biological Sciences from Nanyang Technological University (Singapore). During her doctoral studies, she examined how a human-colonising microbe could evolve in response to changes within a mammalian host, and how this process could influence microbial virulence. After a brief stint as a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology (Singapore), she joined Health Feedback in 2018 as science editor. She has also worked as a freelance science writer – her articles have appeared in *Asian Scientist Magazine* and *A*STAR Research*.

Susanna Nilstam

Chief Of Operations

Susanna completed a Master degree in Marketing & Business Administration at Lund University School of Economics and Management. She worked for many years as Head of Marketing for a French Film Distribution Company, until deciding to join *On Purpose* – a one-year leadership program supporting experienced professionals to switch into the social enterprise sector.

Erwan Ledoux

Tech Lead

Erwan completed a PhD in statistical physics. He then brought his expertise to the software engineering department at the artificial intelligence company Snips, and later joined the French "Ministère de la Culture" on the "pass Culture" project. He specializes in the construction of web and mobile applications and intelligent data processing systems of all types.

Quan Trinh

Full Stack Developer

Quan graduated from Nanyang Technological University in Singapore with a degree in Digital Animation. After a few years working as a game developer, he came to France to study at Ecole 42 and worked with startups to develop web applications that help to better lives.

Vincent Cristia

Finance & Partnerships Lead

Vincent completed a Master degree in Economics at AgroParisTech (Paris Saclay University) and holds a Master of Public Administration from Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA). He worked for the French Ministry of Economy and Finance as head of higher education and research office. He later joined the French Agency of continuing professional education (Afp) as deputy CEO.

How we work

Science editors identify trending news and claims according to their influence on social media and the quantity or degree of scientific evidence within the reporting. Once an article or claim is selected for review, one editor leads the fact-checking effort by contacting relevant experts, reading and summarizing the scientific literature on the topic, and writing a draft of the review. At least one other editor reviews the draft, challenges the claims, and pinpoints where additional clarity and references are needed. Challenging questions are decided by the director.

Advisors

Kerry Emanuel

Professor of Atmospheric Sciences, MIT
Member of the US National Academy of Science

Thomas Malone

Professor of Management, MIT Sloan School of Management
Founding director of the Center for Collective Intelligence

Christelle Perrin

Head of Communication, Marketing and Influence actions at Fermes d'Avenir

Richard Somerville

Professor Emeritus, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego
Science Director, Climate Communication

Anthony LeRoy Westerling

Associate Professor, University of California, Merced

Former contributors

Scott K. Johnson

Science Editor, Climate

Scott holds a Master of Science in Hydrogeology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He teaches college-level Earth science, and has worked as a freelance science journalist covering the geosciences since 2011, primarily for *Ars Technica*.

Jessica P. Johnson

Science Editor, Biology

Jessica holds an MS in microbiology from UMass Amherst and an MS in science journalism from Boston University. She has conducted laboratory and field research in biofuels and environmental restoration. And since 2011 she has covered science research news for *PNAS*, *Nature Medicine*, *The Scientist*, and others.

Marie Penché

Fundraising & Development Officer

Marie completed a master's degree in Telecommunications Engineering at the French IMT Lille Douai engineering school. She worked for 10 years as Project Manager in the telecommunications sector, until she felt the need to work for purpose-driven organisations. She recently initiated a transition to the social enterprise sector by joining the *On Purpose Associate* program and, as such, joined Science Feedback for a 6-month placement. She will focus on fundraising activities and also drive workflows improvement.

Acknowledgments

- Ben Okun — Editorial support
- Daniel Nethery — Associate Editor
- Laura Kiritze-Topor — Graphic Design
- Lauren Raimondo Gaffney — Graphic Design

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Search

Climate change, forest management and several other causes contribute to wildfire severity and total area burned in the western United States

561
SHARES

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CLAIM

"Forest fires are caused by poor management. Not by climate change."

VERDICT [?]

MISLEADING

SOURCE: Facebook users, Facebook, 9 Sept 2020

DETAILS

Misrepresents a complex reality: The causes and behaviors of wildfires in the western US are influenced by a variety of factors, including weather conditions, climate change, past fire suppression practices, and an increase in the number of people living near wildlands.

Incorrect: Scientific studies demonstrate clear links between climate change, hotter and drier conditions, and an increase in dry vegetative fuel load, drastically increasing the amount of forest fire area in the western US.

KEY TAKE AWAY



In addition to land management practices, the severity of wildfires in the western US is influenced by extreme heat, drought, and the amount of dry vegetative fuel, which are all linked to human-caused climate change. Climate change is not the only factor that affects fire behavior, but it is an important one. Since 1984, the forest fire area in the western US likely doubled due to climate change.

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Reviewers



Daniel Swain
Climate Scientist, University of California, Los Angeles



Stefan Doerr
Professor, Swansea University



Zeke Hausfather
Director of Climate and Energy, The Breakthrough Institute

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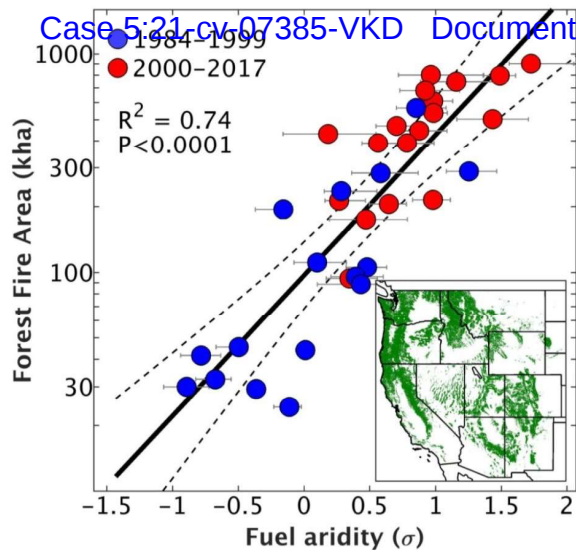
REVIEW

CLAIM: "Forest fires are caused by poor management. Not by climate change. While fire behavior is affected by weather and climate...fires around the state of California do not happen because of climate change; they are caused because of an unsustainable fuel load and failed environmental practices."

REVIEW

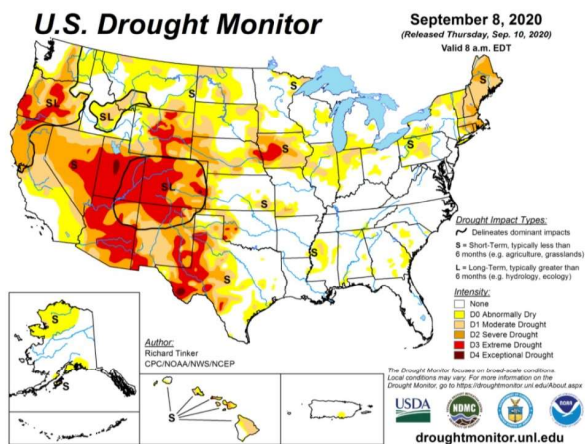
The claim that the forest fires currently burning in the western United States are caused by poor forest management and not climate change appeared in multiple Facebook posts published in September 2020. While forest management practices, specifically fire suppression, have increased the fuel load, scientific evidence also links climate change to hotter and drier conditions, which increase the amount of dry vegetative fuel and the total area burned in the western US^[1].

Forest management efforts like thinning and prescribed burns are important to restore forests to the lighter fuel loads that existed before the fire suppression policies of the 20th century, says Valerie Trouet, an associate professor at the University of Arizona. But climate change is also a key contributor to fire severity today. As described in Abatzoglou and Williams (2016), "human-caused climate change caused over half of the documented increases in fuel aridity since the 1970s and doubled the cumulative forest fire area since 1984" (see figure below)^[1].



Figure—Western US forest fire area on a logarithmic scale compared to standardised fuel aridity, with data points during the 1984-1999 (blue dots) and 2000-2017 (red dots) periods highlighted. Map insert shows the western US forest areas. From Abatzoglou et al. (2016)^[1].

Several states in the western US, including California, Oregon, and Washington, are currently experiencing extreme drought (see figure below).



August was also the hottest month on record for California. These conditions, combined with strong winds, increased the severity of the current wildfires.

In addition to climate and weather, factors such as past fire suppression (causing fuel accumulation over time) and people living in closer proximity to wildlands also influence wildfire behavior, as described by the reviewers below. For a more in-depth discussion of how climate change influences wildfires in California, see our 2018 post: [A discussion with experts on California wildfire links to climate change](#).

UPDATE (8 October 2020): Stossel TV claimed this review was inappropriately used to apply a "Missing Context" flag to their video on Facebook. This claim is based on a misrepresentation of our process, and of the assessments of the scientists who contributed to this review. For an explanation of how we rated their video, read our post [published here](#).

SCIENTISTS' FEEDBACK

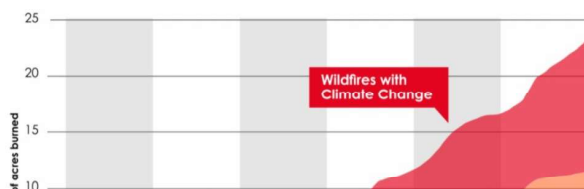
Zeke Hausfather, Director of Climate and Energy, The Breakthrough Institute:

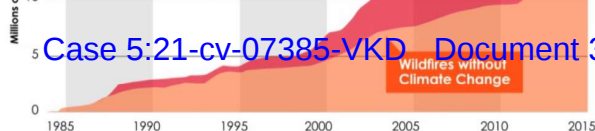
[Comment from a previous evaluation of a similar claim]

[The] claims that climate plays no role in natural disasters and wildfires fly in the face of a large peer-reviewed scientific literature showing clear links between climate change and extreme heat events, drought, and extreme rainfall as well as links between hotter and drier conditions and wildfire areas burned in many regions of the world^[6-9].

All three factors – buildup of vegetation due to fire suppression, more people living in the wildland-urban interface, and hotter and drier conditions have contributed to severe wildfires in regions like the western US in recent years.

A 2016 study showed that climate change is responsible for over half the increase in fuel aridity (drier fuel load), and has doubled the cumulative forest area burned^[1]. Rising average global temperatures have led to higher spring and summer temperatures, which in turn have led to earlier spring snowmelt. Further, there is evidence that climate change is causing winter rains to come later in autumn, and stop earlier in spring^[6,7]. This is extending the area and time periods in which forests become combustible, and in parts of California, fire season is now 50 days longer than in 1979^[8,9].





Stefan Doerr, Professor, Swansea University:

[Comment from a previous evaluation of a similar claim]

Several global climate trends promote fire: increased temperature, frequency, intensity and/or extent of heatwaves, droughts and extreme winds. This is very well established and summarised in the IPCC (2014) report^[2,3]. Climate change has led to an increase in area burned in regions where fires burn more intensely and have a greater impact (e.g. western USA and Canada)^[1,10].

Daniel Swain, Climate Scientist, University of California, Los Angeles:

[Comment from a previous evaluation of a similar claim]

This is misleading and incorrect as stated. While the legacy of 20th century forest management policies, as well as urban incursion into the wildlands, are indeed relevant in some areas, research has shown that such non-climate factors cannot account for the enormous increase in area burned by wildfire both in the broader American West and California specifically.

In fact, drying of vegetation due to climate change is responsible for about half of the observed increase in western U.S. forest fire area burned over the past several decades^[1]. More specifically in California, observed warming and drying more than doubled the occurrence of extreme fire weather conditions between 1979 and 2018—a trend that is attributable to human-caused climate change^[10].

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NOTES

This fact check is available at IFCN's 2020 US Elections FactChat #Chatbot on WhatsApp. [Click here](#), for more.

US West **Wildfires**

Published on: 16 Sep 2020 | Editor: Nikki Forrester

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The focus of this fact-checking program is identifying and addressing viral misinformation, particularly clear hoaxes that have no basis in fact. Fact-checking partners prioritize provably false claims, especially those that are timely or trending and important to the average person.

Fact-checking partners do not prioritize claims that are inconsequential or consist of minor inaccuracies. Additionally, the program is not meant to interfere with individual expression, opinions and debate, clearly satirical or humorous content, or business disputes.

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Our program includes several key steps:

- **Identify false news:** We identify potential misinformation using signals, like feedback from people on Facebook, and surface the content to fact-checkers. Fact-checkers may also identify content to review on their own.
- **Review content:** Fact-checkers will review content, check its facts, and rate its accuracy. This happens independently from Facebook, and may include calling sources, consulting public data, authenticating videos and images, and more.
- **Clearly label misinformation and inform users about it:** We apply a label to content that's been reviewed by fact-checking partners, so people can read additional context. We also notify people before they try to share this content, and people who have shared it in the past.

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